

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FEDERAL HORTICULTURAL BOARD.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 4, 1914.

NEWS LETTER NO. 5.

Dear Sir:

The following was issued as a press notice February 27, 1914,
by the Office of Information of the U. S. Department of Agriculture:

TO CONTROL POWDERY SCAB IN MAINE.

Recent surveys have established the fact that the powdery scab of potatoes exists in portions of Maine adjacent to or near the Canadian border, which has been traced directly to seed potatoes brought over from the infested districts of New Brunswick. Thus far only a very small per cent of Maine farms have been found affected. The infestation is worst in the extreme northern part of Aroostook County which is not as important a potato district as the southern end of the county, where also a few scattered cases have appeared.

The Maine state authorities acted promptly and vigorously when the matter was brought to their attention and have a force of inspectors scouting in the district to search out all cases of the disease. The potato growers and shippers are also fully awake to the necessity of bringing it under prompt control, and of preventing the shipment of infected stock, especially to points where it might be used for planting.

The Federal government in an advisory capacity is now cooperating with the state to insure that all potatoes that go out are inspected and certified to be free from powdery scab.

The action contemplated will not prevent the shipment of sound potatoes from this important district, but will safeguard the interests of other states that depend upon Maine for their seed supply.

A state inspection service has been organized, which will issue certificates of freedom from powdery scab, and no potatoes known to be diseased will be allowed to leave the State. Seed stock will be examined with special care.

It is believed that these measures will provide an adequate safeguard against the future spread of powdery scab to other states. The State of Maine expects to quarantine all infected fields and will endeavor to stamp out the disease.

State control of all potato shipments will be accomplished in the following manner:

RAILROADS.

1. To agree definitely to accept for carriage only potatoes that are certified by the proper authorities of Maine.
2. To report daily to the Commissioner of Agriculture of Maine and the Federal Horticultural Board in Washington the origin, the car number, and the destination of the car, indicating whether the potatoes are for seed or for table purposes.
3. In case knowledge comes to the railroad later of any diversion as to the destination of these cars, both the Commissioner of Agriculture of Maine and the Federal Horticultural Board shall be notified as soon as that information comes to their knowledge.
4. The railroads are to load potatoes only from regular potato houses and not directly from vehicles.

INSPECTION.

The State of Maine will inspect all potatoes for shipment at the warehouses.

CERTIFICATION.

Certify as seed potatoes only such as are believed, as a result of inspection, to be free from powdery scab or from contamination with powdery scab. All seed potatoes to be shipped in sacks, with label showing number of certificate to be attached to each sack.

All potatoes under any suspicion of contamination will be certified for table stock only, and no potatoes infected with powdery scab will be certified for shipment out of the state.

CONTROL OF DISPOSITION OF TABLE STOCK POTATOES.

Reasonable effort will be made by the Maine authorities to secure the disposal of possibly contaminated potatoes at such centers of consumption as will eliminate as far as possible the use of such potatoes for seed stock.

Yours very truly,

C. L. MARLATT,

Chairman of Board.